

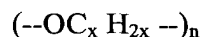
**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An intercalated clay comprising clay intercalated with polyether block polyamide copolymer.
2. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein said clay comprises smectite clay.
3. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein said clay comprises synthetic smectite clay.
4. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein said clay comprises montmorillonite.
5. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein the ratio by weight of clay to polyether block polyamide copolymer is between 1:99 and 99:1.
6. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein the ratio by weight of clay to polyether block polyamide copolymer is between 3:97 and 95:5.
7. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein the polyether to polyamide molecular weight ratio is between 5:95 and 95:5.
8. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein the number-average molar mass of the polyamide sequences is between 300 and 15,000.
9. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein the number-average molar mass of the polyamide sequences is between 600 and 5,000.
10. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein the number-average molar mass of the polyether sequences is between 100 and 6,000.

11. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein the number-average molar mass of the polyether sequences is between 200 and 3,000.

12. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein said copolymer comprises blocks selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 12, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, polytetramethylene oxide, and polytetramethylene glycol.

13. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein in said polyether block comprises a structure



wherein x is from 2 to about 8, wherein the alkyl group is straight or branched, and  
wherein n is from 2 to about 1000.

14. An article comprising a matrix polymer and an intercalated clay comprising clay intercalated with polyether block polyamide copolymer.

15. The article of claim 14 wherein said matrix polymer comprises polyolefin.

16. The article of claim 14 wherein said matrix polymer comprises poly(propylene).

17. The article of claim 14 wherein said matrix polymer comprises polyester.

18. The article of claim 17 wherein said polyester comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

19. The article of claim 17 wherein said polyester comprises crystalline polyester.

20. The article of claim 17 wherein said polyester comprises amorphous polyester.

21. The article of claim 14 wherein said matrix polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyimides, and polystyrene.

22. The article of claim 14 wherein said article further comprises compatibilizer.

23. The article of claim 22 wherein said compatibilizer comprises polyolefins.

24. The article of claim 14 wherein said article has a surface resistivity of less than  $10^{13}$  ohms per square.

25. The article of claim 24 wherein said surface resistivity is between  $10^8$  and  $10^{12}$  ohms per square.

26. The article of claim 14 wherein the Young's modulus of the said copolymer and matrix polymer is enhanced by at least 10%.

27. The article of claim 14 wherein the Young's modulus of the said copolymer and matrix polymer is enhanced by at least 20%.

28. The article of claim 27 wherein said matrix polymer comprises polyolefin and said polyolefin comprises between 20 and 99.9 % by weight of said article.

29. The article of claim 14 wherein said clay comprises smectite clay.

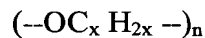
30. The article of claim 14 wherein said clay comprises synthetic smectite clay.

31. The article of claim 14 wherein the ratio by weight of clay to copolymer is between 1:99 and 99:1.

32. The article of claim 14 wherein the polyether to polyamide molecular weight ratio is between 5:95 and 95:5.

33. The article of claim 14 wherein said copolymer comprises blocks selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 12, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, polytetramethylene oxide, and polytetramethylene glycol.

34. The article of claim 33 wherein in said polyether block comprises a structure



wherein x is from 2 to about 8, wherein the alkyl group is straight or branched, and

wherein n is from 2 to about 1000.

35. The article of claim 14 wherein said article comprises a base for a photographic member.

36. The article of claim 14 wherein said article comprises a base for an imaging member.

37. An article comprising polyether block polyamide copolymer and intercalated clay.

38. The article of claim 37 wherein said article has a surface resistivity of less than  $10^{13}$  ohms per square.

39. The article of claim 37 wherein the Young's modulus of the said copolymer is enhanced by at least 10%.

40. The article of claim 37 wherein the Young's modulus of the said copolymer is enhanced by at least 20%.

41. The article of claim 37 wherein said clay comprises smectite clay.

42. The article of claim 37 wherein said clay comprises synthetic smectite clay.

43. The article of claim 37 wherein the ratio by weight of clay to copolymer is between 1:99 and 99:1.

44. The article of claim 37 wherein the polyether to polyamide molecular weight ratio is between 5:95 and 95:5.

45. The article of claim 37 wherein said copolymer comprises blocks selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 12, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, polytetramethylene oxide, and polytetramethylene glycol.

46. The article of claim 37 wherein said article comprises a base for a photographic member.

47. The article of claim 37 wherein said article comprises a base for an imaging member.

48. The intercalated clay of claim 1 wherein in said polyamide block comprises the recurring unit represented by the general formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkylene group of at least 2 carbon atoms and arylene having at least 6 carbon atoms; and

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from R<sup>1</sup> and aryl groups.

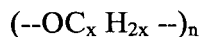
49. The article of claim 14 wherein in said polyamide block comprises the recurring unit represented by the general formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkylene group of at least 2 carbon atoms and arylene having at least 6 carbon atoms; and

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from R<sup>1</sup> and aryl groups.

50. The article of claim 37 wherein in said polyether block comprises a structure



wherein x is from 2 to about 8, wherein the alkyl group is straight or branched, and

wherein n is from 2 to about 1000.

51. The article of claim 37 wherein in said polyamide block comprises the recurring unit represented by the general formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkylene group of at least 2 carbon atoms and arylene having at least 6 carbon atoms; and

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from R<sup>1</sup> and aryl groups.